By the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, The United States of America.

(b) Patents are granted by respective Governments under their Patents laws. Whenever information is received about patents being taken on certain products which are of commercial interest to India and which in our views do not satisfy the criteria of patentability, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of patent can be challenged. After sufficient material is gathered, a challenge petition is filed for re-examination and Ultimate revocation of patent in that country.

(c) India is a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which aims at conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

Rising Trend in Import

796. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether imports have shown rising April—September, 1998-99.

(c) There has been an increase in overall imports primarily due to increase in imports of gold and silver.

(d) The Government has not taken any specific additional measures in the past few months to specificially curb imports. The only instrumentality available with the Government has been placement of items on restricted list. No movement has taken place from free list to restricted list of imports in the past few months.

Engagement of TCS to Study FIEO

797. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Export Organisations has engaged Tata Consultancy Services to study the various aspects of the working of FIEO and of the country's exports trade , etc.; and (b) if so, the details of the report?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s. Tata Consultancy Services are still in the process of completing the study.

Review of Value-Based Advance Licencing Scheme

798. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value-based Advance Licensing Scheme is under review;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the recent past many exporters have misused the scheme;

(c) the loopholes in the scheme; and

(d) the action taken against the offenders?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) The Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme has been discontinued with effect from 1st April, 1997. Complaints of misuse of the scheme have not been received in the recent past. Provisions exist in the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, for taking penal action against the offenders. Detailed Enforcement Guidelines were issued in this regard by the Director General of Foreign Trade to the field formations of D.G.F.T. in October, 1997, for dealing with cases of suspected misdeclaration of value, suggesting the following penal action, namely:

(i) Cancellation of licence;

(ii) Imposition of fiscal penalty;

(iii) Cancellation of Importer-Exporter Code numb[r] .

trend during the last six months;

(b) if so, the extent of increase;

(c) the reasons for rise in imports; and

(d) the steps Government have taken/ propose to take to curb imporits

THE MINISTER OF COM (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDEH, and (b) As per the provisIONAL CAP received from Directorate Genera. Commercial Intelligence & Statistucs (DGCI&S), the imports have registeicd growth of 10.06% in dollar terms and 27.75% in rupee terms during

Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System

799. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether food processing units like meat and processed food and vegetable exporters are facing difficulty in implementing two of the seven principles of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take up the matter under the W.T.O.'s Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Pact; and

(c) the other measures proposed to help Indian food processing units which are finding it difficult to implement the system?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The smaller units on their own, are finding it difficult to implement Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) System, especially in regard to the following principles:

i. Verification

ii. Documentation

(b) The issue has been taken up at the meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (the Committee responsible for formulating the Standard on HACCP) and it has been projected by the Indian delegation that a standard needs to be developed on "HACCP like systems in small businesses with reference to developing countries" which would contain basically all the principles of HACCP with modifications in respect of
weriffiontion and documoention

(c) Sonic of the meaxes proposed to help the Indin food procesing industry to way men Plesad Answere Critical Govrnment Policy (HECL) system are as under:-

1. Awareness and training programmes to assist the Indian industry in implementing the systems.
2. Group projects are being taken up for implementing HACCP in smaller units.
3. Modules on HACCP are being developed in different sectors which would assist the smaller manufacturers to use the as guidelines for implementing HACCP systems.
4. Export units are being assisted in building up their testing facilities. For this purpose, test modules containing the parameters required to be tested, methods of tests, equipment required and source of equipment are being developed.
5. Consultants within the country are also being given the training so that they can be utilised by the industry for implementing HACCP.

Default in Payment of Wages by T.T.C.I.

800. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been default in payment of wages over months in Tea Trading Corporation of India, Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a)